

## PROCLAMATION **AMERICAN STROKE MONTH**MAY 2008

WHEREAS, stroke is a leading cause of serious long-term disability and the third leading cause of death in the United States, killing over 150,000 Americans and almost 400 citizens of North Dakota each year; and

WHEREAS, the themes for American Stroke Month 2008 are "Know the Stroke Warning Signs" and "Act in Time"; to educate the public and policy makers about the importance of recognizing a stroke and acting quickly during a stroke emergency; and

WHEREAS, warning signs of stroke include sudden numbness or weakness of the face, arm or leg, especially on one side of the body; sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding; sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes; sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination; and sudden sever headache with no know cause; and

WHEREAS, Americans are more aware of the risk factors and warning signs for stroke than in the past, but still less than one in five adults can correctly recognize all stroke symptoms; and

WHEREAS, new and effective treatments have been developed to treat and minimize the severity and damaging effects of strokes, but much more research is needed.

**NOW THEREFORE,** as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim May 2008, **AMERICAN STROKE MONTH** in the state of North Dakota.

John Hoeven

Governor

ATTEST:

Alvin A. Jaeger Secretary of State

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